FOR INFORMATION CALL

**April 18, 2005** 

**Ald. Willie L. Hines, Jr.** (414) 286-3771

## "Random Acts of Violence Must Stop"

Ald. Hines Appeals for Residents to Come Forward With Information, Wants End to Senseless Violence

Milwaukee Common Council President Willie L. Hines, Jr. says the senseless violence that took the life of seven-year-old Nikeema Hubanks must end.

In a statement released today, Ald. Hines urged the community to stand united against violence and to help find the person or persons responsible for Nikeema's death. "As summer approaches, the community must not stand on the sidelines and let this type of activity run rampant," said Ald. Hines. "I appeal to anyone who has any information regarding the perpetrator(s) of this crime to come forward. It is totally unacceptable that our children cannot come outside to play for fear of gun violence."

Nikeema, shot yesterday while playing outside her home on the city's north side, died of her injuries early today. She was a second-grader at Palmer Elementary School.

Ald. Hines said: "This sort of activity has been a problem in our community for too long. We must all, as a community, assist in ridding our neighborhoods of these tragic, devastating occurrences. As the warmer weather approaches, our kids should have the freedom to play outside in front of their homes without the fear of losing their life to gunfire or any other heinous act."

In conclusion, the alderman said: "Our innocent and most precious jewels, our children, must be protected. We must take our neighborhoods, community and streets back from those who have no respect for themselves or the life of others."

"The perpetrators of this act must be held accountable and punished," he said.